

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 8 February 2012 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Morley, Austin, Baker, Balmer, M. Bradshaw, J. Bradshaw, Browne, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, A.Cole, Dennett, Edge, Fraser, Fry, J. Gerrard, Gilligan, Harris, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, Jones, M Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, Macmanus, McDermott, A.McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N.Plumpton Walsh, M. Ratcliffe, Redhead, Roberts, Rowe, Shepherd, Stockton, Thompson, Wallace, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Hodge, Leadbetter, Swain, Wainwright and Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, A. Scott, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D. Parr, W Rourke and C McKeown

Also in attendance: The Mayoress, Mrs Sheila Glynn and one member of the public

COU65 PRESENTATION BY PAULA CAIN FROM HALTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Action

Paula Cain, Chief Executive of Halton Chamber of Commerce, addressed Members of the Council on the work of the Chamber.

The Council was advised that the Chamber represented businesses in the Widnes and Runcorn area, and was committed to the ongoing development and success of the economy in Halton. Its members could benefit from a range of business advice and support, with a wide variety of major events planned for the year, providing effective networking opportunities for local businesses.

There was an opportunity for Members to ask questions on current related issues. Ms Cain was then thanked for her attendance.

COU66 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 December 2011, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU67 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on the following issues:

- The Member Seminar on the Localism Act would take place on 15 February 2012 in the Council Chamber starting at 5.00pm;
- Changes in the administration of Housing Benefits payments had resulted in a 10% cut (approximately £1.3m), for the Borough and would have an impact for Halton residents who claimed this benefit. However, pensioners and other vulnerable groups would be protected from these cuts;
- Members had seen a leaflet produced by The Heath School circulating in the local community "consulting" on the creation of a 16-19 Free School, which was entitled "The Heath Sixth Form – A new Sixth Form for Runcorn". The school was likely to be based at The Heath Business Park; and
- Congratulations were extended to Michael Sheehan, the Principal of Riverside College and his team and all the students for their hard work which had resulted in Riverside being ranked as the 4th Best Further Education College in the country.

COU68 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings from 15 December 2011, 12 January 2012 and 26 January 2012.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU69 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board Sub Committee meetings from 15 December 2011, 12 January 2012 and 26 January 2012.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU70 MINUTES OF THE MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board meeting on 26 January 2012.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU71 MINUTES OF THE 3MG EXECUTIVE SUB BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the 3MG Executive Sub Board meeting on 12 January 2012.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU72 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

It was noted that no questions had been submitted under Standing Order No. 8.

(N.B. Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones declared a personal interest in the Health Policy and Performance Board minutes, as a Lay Adviser for the NHS Mersey Cluster; Councillors Peter Lloyd Jones and Dave Cargill both declared a personal interest in item ELS33 on the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board minutes, as they were both Directors of the Murdishaw Community Centre)

COU73 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS

The Council considered the reports on the work of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of the Council on 14 December 2011:-

Children, Young People and Families
Employment, Learning, Skills and Community
Health
Safer
Environment and Urban Renewal and
Corporate

In receiving the minutes, the following comments/observations were made:

- Councillor Dennett referred to the Halton Child and Family Poverty Strategy 2011-13 (minute

CYP 40 referred), and recognised that this was the first step towards eradicating child poverty in the Borough.

COU74 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the work of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of the Council on 14 December 2011:-

Development Control
Appeals Panel and
Appointments Committee

In receiving the minutes, the following comments/observations were made:

- Councillor Nolan (Chair of Development Control Committee) confirmed that the Ineos Chlor application had been withdrawn. In response, Councillor Chris Loftus thanked the Chairman and staff for their diligence in dealing with this application.

COU75 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE TO AN OUTSIDE BODY

The Council considered the nomination of Councillor John Gerrard as the Council's representative on the Runcorn Locks Restoration Society Outside Body and of Councillor John Stockton as the Council representative on the Regional Flood Coastal Committee Outside Body.

RESOLVED: That Councillor John Gerrard be appointed as the Council's representative on the Runcorn Locks Restoration Society Outside Body and Councillor John Stockton be appointed as the Council's representative on the Regional Flood Coastal Committee Outside Body with immediate effect.

COU76 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Council considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Council during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-

Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and

- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

COU77 ST MICHAELS GOLF COURSE, WIDNES - CHANGE TO CAPITAL PROGRAMME - KEY DECISION (MINUTE EXB 83 REFERS)

The Executive Board had considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on amendments to the Capital Programme to ensure completion of Phase 2 of the St Michael's Golf Course remediation programme.

The Board had noted the importance of completing the Phase 2 works to reduce the estimated yearly leachate disposal costs, and to ensure the site could be restored for a yet to be determined future use.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme be amended accordingly.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

Meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.